

A compendium for coast and sea

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An integrated document about the socio-economic, ecological and institutional aspects of the coast and the sea in Flanders and Belgium

In the marine and maritime sector, there is an increasing demand for scientifically underpinned and up-to-date information in response to social issues and problems. This information, although partially available, is often highly fragmented, sector bound and/or has limited access. In the 'Compendium for Coast and Sea', the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) aims to aggregate objective and scientifically based information and data from Flemish/Belgian marine and maritime research. The integrated and transboundary character (including the land-sea border) of the Compendium contributes to an improved communication within and from the fragmented marine / maritime scientific world and increases the accessibility and visibility of the marine / maritime research (A 'business card' of the Flemish/Belgian marine and maritime scientific community). Hence, the Compendium serves as a tool in the pursuit of a Sustainable and Integrated Maritime Policy and Coastal Zone Management.

Product & concept

The 'Compendium for Coast and Sea' is the result of a close collaboration with a network of experts (co-authors, lecturers, VLIZ scientific board, ...). The product will consist of three components:

1. A mapping of the marine scientific landscape in Flanders and Belgium (history of marine sciences, science policy, bibliometric study, overview of funding channels,...).
2. An overview of the different users of the coast and sea. Relevant publications and information sources will be compiled in thematic fact sheets. Hence, these fact sheets will serve as a 'showcase' for the existing knowledge and expertise.
3. The third component of the Compendium for Coast and Sea tackles the interface between science and policy (case-study Marine Strategy Framework Directive, overview marine/maritime legislation and administrations).

A first version of the Compendium will be launched by the end of 2013 and will consist of a comprehensive background document, a focus document, an executive summary and a number of communication products; both in Dutch and English. A printed version of the Compendium will appear every 5 years. An interactive website will be developed, where information and time series will be updated more regularly. The Compendium focuses primarily on academics, a broad group of experts who are actively involved with the coast and sea in their professional life (both at international, European, national, regional and local level) and representatives from business.

More information about the Compendium for Coast and Sea (blueprint, roadmap, terms of reference authors, lecturers,...) and the activities of the expert group 'Compendium for Coast and Sea' (terms of reference, composition, presentations,...) can be found on the provisional webpage: http://www.vliz.be/EN/Figures_Policy/Figures_Policy_Compendium.

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